



# CITY NEWS

*Discover.*

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## Blackhurst Students Lead Service Project to Help Homeless Pets

During December, some 25 Blackhurst Elementary *Project Read and Reach* students (PRR) conducted a service learning project that supported a cause close to their hearts—homeless pets. With help from PRR leaders, the students learned about animal shelters and created a video advocating support of homeless pets. On Dec. 9, as part of their four-day, schoolwide pet care item collection drive, the video was shared with the entire Blackhurst student body.

“PRR’s Pet Protection and Care Project happened as a response to personally meeting two real shelter dogs, Opal and Stitch, and hearing their stories,” said PRR Special Project Leader Shelley Geiger. “Shelter representatives helped our kids really understand the problem of homeless pets in our community and how compassionate, responsible citizens can make a difference. We are proud of PRR for taking action and teaching others about animal shelters and ways they can help these special animals.”

In addition to the collection drive, PRR kids also raised \$100 for the City’s animal shelter by hosting a schoolwide “Wear a Hat, Help Save a Dog or Cat” hat day. Fellow Blackhurst students were allowed and encouraged to donate 25 cents in order to wear a hat to school in support of homeless pets. Plus, the PRR kids also made braided cat and dog toys out of recycled t-shirts and baked homemade dog treats. The entire effort culminated on December 18 when City representatives proudly joined an all-school assembly to officially receive the PRR students’ donations.

“It has been great working with these kids. They are so appreciative and the way they learned about and supported the shelter was just awesome,” said Teresa Gilley, Lead Animal Control Officer. “The dogs devoured the treats, and the money will go to our *Shelter Friends* program that covers medical expenses for the animals.”

PRR is a before and after-school academic enrichment program for students K-4 that promotes literacy, character, and service. The program is offered at Blackhurst and Lincoln Elementary Schools (learn more at [projectreadreach.weebly.com](http://projectreadreach.weebly.com)).



PRR students (front, l to r) Heaven Galvin, Zach Mohr, Kayla Howlett, and Maria Lopes are joined by City representatives (back, l to r) Police Chief Randy McKinley, Captain Don Thurman, Lead Animal Control Officer Teresa Gilley, and Animal Control Officer Cindy Jones.




Classmates gave generously to the pet care item collection drive. (middle) Homemade dog treats were made with love for special pets in need. (bottom) City representatives joined Blackhurst staff (from l, holding items) Chrissy Fitzpatrick, PRR; Marcus Taylor, PRR; Steve Wilson, Principal; and Shelley Geiger, PRR Special Project Leader.

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Artist renderings of the proposed River Wall (top) and the new, enhanced entrance into the City Center that will be achieved through the Fifth Street Gateway Project.



## FIFTH ST. CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

**Percent Complete**

# 2%

**What To Expect in the Next 90 Days**

- Opening trenches for waterline work
- Adding lane reductions from Bass Pro Dr. to the north and from First Capitol Dr. to the south
- Removing sidewalks and pavement between Bass Pro Dr. and Boone's Lick Rd. and between First Capitol Dr. and Pike St.
- Relocating utilities lines underground

## Fifth Street Project Underway

Mayor Sally Faith and the St. Charles City Council hosted a ground-breaking ceremony on Tuesday, February 3 for significant improvements along Fifth Street.

"The Fifth Street Gateway Project will create a legacy for the corridor leading into the City from Interstate 70 for many years to come. This project is part of the district redevelopment plan for the City and includes roadway and streetscape improvements along Fifth Street from Bass Pro Drive to First Capitol Drive," Faith said.

Public Works Director Jerry Hurlbert emceed the event and outlined the overall impact of the project. Running from Ameristar Boulevard to First Capitol Drive, Hurlbert said the project will cost \$10 million, widen Fifth Street, improve traffic flow, and enhance the entrance to the City.

At the event, Mike Bowers, President of SSM St. Joseph Health Center, stated the corridor is an important aspect to the continued strength of the City's major health care provider. SSM is partnering with the City on the project.

To perform the ground-breaking ceremony, Faith, Bowers and Hurlbert were joined by members of the St. Charles City Council, Director of Administration Michael Spurgeon, senior SSM personnel and representatives of R.V. Wagner, the general contractor on the project, and Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc., the project's engineering firm.

To stay up-to-date on the project, go to [stcharlescitymo.gov/fifthstreet](http://stcharlescitymo.gov/fifthstreet) to view current planning documents as well as sign up for email and/or text notifications.



At the ground-breaking were (l to r): Director of Administration Michael Spurgeon; Councilmembers Rod Hermann, Ward 8; Ron Stivison, Ward 9; Mary West, Ward 4; Bridget Ohmes, Ward 10; Tom Besselman, Ward 2; Mayor Sally Faith; and Director of Public Works Jerry Hurlbert.



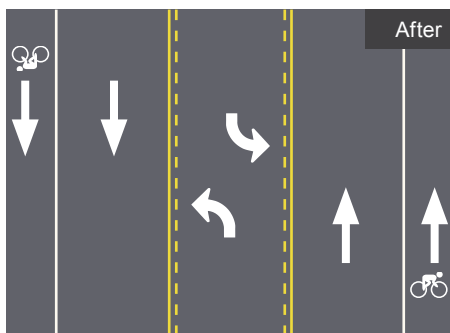
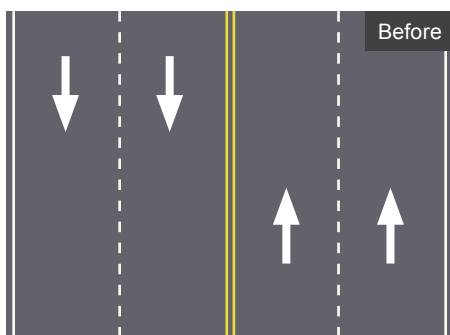
## Kingshighway to Undergo Road Diet

As soon as late April or early May, the City will begin reconstructing Kingshighway from Madison Street to Clark Street, converting it from its current four-lane configuration to a three-lane design. The project will use what is known as a road diet, a transportation planning technique whereby the number of travel lanes is reduced in order to achieve systemic improvements.

Partially funded by a Federal grant, the reconstruction project will result in one northbound lane and one southbound lane with a center two-way left turn lane. Sidewalks will be upgraded to current Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Shoulders will be improved to be safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. Several traffic signals will be replaced and synced for improved traffic flow.

Despite what you might think, studies have shown that road diets do not add to congestion and actually result in a 20-45% reduction in collisions. This particular City project has been in development since early 2013.

You can learn more about road diets at [safety.fhwa.dot.gov/road\\_diets/](http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/road_diets/). Questions? Call 636-949-3237 or email [kevin.corwin@stcharlescitemo.gov](mailto:kevin.corwin@stcharlescitemo.gov).



## PUBLIC WORKS HOPES TO BEGIN MOVING STREETS DIVISION INTO NEW FACILITY BY MID-SUMMER

In 2012, voters approved allocating \$8.3 million in general obligation bonds to design, construct and furnish a new Public Works facility. Today, according to Public Works Director Jerry Hurlbert, the project is now about 70% complete.

“We hope the new building will be ready in July, and our Streets Division will be the first to move in,” said Hurlbert. “Since the mid-1960s they have worked out of a converted metal airplane hangar on North Drive. Given the City’s growth since then, coupled with the failing health of their current building, those 58 employees are really looking forward to the move.”

In addition to an administrative building, the new campus will feature:

- A fleet maintenance building with service bays to maintain the department’s fleet of trucks, buses, and heavy equipment
- Indoor storage space for weather-sensitive equipment and materials
- Outdoor bulk storage space
- A 4,000 ton capacity salt storage dome

“Our hope is that the Water Division will eventually join Streets at the new facility,” said Hurlbert. “By more easily sharing equipment and training, it would mean a tremendous increase in efficiency.”

The new Public Works facility is located on 8.56 acres in northern St. Charles adjacent to the Coca-Cola distribution center. Also accessible from Mueller Road, the new facility’s address will be 2871 Elmpoint Industrial Drive. Given the amount of people, equipment and materials that the Streets Division will be relocating, it is hoped that the move will be complete by October.



After the ground-breaking ceremony on September 9, 2014, the new Public Works administration building and facility lots were already coming along nicely by early December.

## Historic Midtown on National Register

by Denise Mitchell, Landmarks Board Member

St. Charles' Historic Midtown Neighborhood was recently awarded the designation of being placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Midtown joins Frenchtown and Historic Main Street as the third such neighborhood designated within the City.

Midtown, a 125+ acre area, is encompassed by Clark Street on the north, Kingshighway on the west, Madison and Jefferson Streets on the south, and Second and Third Streets on the east. The District qualified for the designation due to the range of styles and vernacular forms built during an extensive period of significance dating back to 1838.

With 121 years of significance, the area has the widest range of architectural styles of any neighborhood in the City. The range of styles include Queen Anne, Federal, Richardsonian Romanesque, Greek Revival, Italianate, Folk Victorian, Minimal Traditional, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, and more.



Midtown contains 527 contributing buildings and 287 non-contributing buildings. What does this mean? A contributing property, such as a 19th Century mansion, helps make a historic district historic, while a non-contributing property, such as a modern medical clinic, does not. The contributing properties are key to a historic district's historic associations, historic architectural qualities, or archaeological qualities.

A property can change from contributing to non-contributing and vice versa if significant alterations take place. For instance, vinyl siding, vinyl windows and other more modern features can cause a building to lose its architectural integrity and make it non-contributing.

The home pictured is at 1400 N. Third Street and is owned by Christine Berry and Ed Akers. Located in the Frenchtown National Register District, it was built in 1867 in the Greek Revival style as a "German style half house." The couple purchased the building in 2009 and took it from non-contributing to contributing using Federal and State tax credits.

In St. Charles, we encourage the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction to as many contributing buildings as possible in an effort to maintain our significant architectural heritage. In addition, with the recent inclusion into the National Register, Historic Midtown properties are now eligible for Federal and State tax credits to assist with appropriate major rehabilitation work. If you would like more information about historic preservation or tax credits, please contact the City's Preservation Planner, Brenda Rubach, at 636-949-3222.

## Fire Department Hosts Ceremony of Honor



Fire Department leadership hosted the Inaugural Ceremony of Honor on Feb. 11 to recognize staff members for a job well done and to highlight the Department's mission. New staff were also recognized along with a number of departmental promotions. Shown left with Dodson (l) and Myers (r) are staff who were recognized for being promoted to the rank of Captain. Congratulations to (interior, l to r): Kelly Hunsel, Jeff Marvin, Matt Mackley, Aaron Burlingame, Jeff Twyman, and Kyle Longinette.



Chief Myers (l) and Deputy Chief Dodson

## LEADERSHIP CHANGES IN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Faith recently announced top leadership changes in the Fire Department. Mike Myers assumed duties as Fire Chief on Nov. 25, and Craig Dodson assumed duties as Deputy Fire Chief on Dec. 1. Myers and Dodson replace Fire Chief Rick Daly and Deputy Chief Rich Oney who both retired on Dec. 12 with 33 years and 36 years of service respectively.

Myers began his career in Las Vegas (1986) as a firefighter and quickly rose through the ranks as a paramedic, fire training officer, assistant chief and deputy chief before earning the top job in 2011. As Fire Chief, he established Las Vegas Fire & Rescue as a premier department in the country. Under his leadership, the department earned re-accreditation with the Center for Public Safety Excellence, which added to its impressive ISO Class I Rating. An industry-leading fire chief, Myers has been featured on the Discovery Channel for innovation, is a sought-after national speaker and holds a B.S. in healthcare administration. He has served as a principal member for the National Fire Protection Association and was an adjunct faculty member for the College of Southern Nevada for many years having designed and taught the Fire Strategies and Tactics curriculum.

Dodson started with the City some 30 years ago as a Firefighter. He became a Paramedic in 1991 and held the positions of Acting Engineer and Acting Captain from 1987-2003, as required. Dodson was promoted to Captain in 2003 and held the position of Acting Battalion Chief from 2004-2007, as needed. He was promoted to his most recent position as Battalion Chief in 2007. Dodson holds a bachelor's degree in Fire Science; he graduated Summa Cum Laude from Columbia Southern University.



## YOU CAN SUPPORT **Meals On Wheels:** *So no senior goes hungry*

Want to help ensure homebound seniors in our area continue to receive nutritious meals, a warm smile, and a daily safety check through our Meals on Wheels program? Thanks to the City Council and the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission, you can.

St. Charles now offers a voluntary way for you support Meals on Wheels in conjunction with your utility payments. Should you choose to participate, your donation is tax deductible.

How does the program work? If you voluntarily elect to donate, the additional amount you choose will be added to your bi-monthly utility bill. Or you can send a one-time donation. The City will then remit 100% of the collected funds to Meals on Wheels.

“Our Meals on Wheels program is administered by the St. Charles Senior Center with the help of dedicated, local volunteers,” said Councilmember Jerry Reese, Ward 6. “The program currently serves about 120 meals each weekday. Due to reductions in funding, many area counties have gone to once-a-week delivery of frozen meals,” he said. “This approach is a detriment to homebound seniors who depend on daily contact that is so vitally important to them maintaining independence in their homes.”

If you haven’t already, you will soon receive a letter and information sheet on this exciting new program in your water bill. Should you have additional questions, please contact the City’s Finance staff at 636-949-3212.

## *Thank You!* **Helping Hands Coat Drive**



A big, warm “thank you” to all who donated items to the City’s 6th annual Helping Hands for the Holiday Drive. Over 500 new and gently used coats were distributed to local residents in need along with gloves, hats, scarves, and blankets. Shown working the event are City employees (front, l to r) Lani D’Angelo, Jessica Rasch, Jennifer Wohldmann, Carol Felzien, (back, l to r) Don Rothermich, John Gordon, Mark Jones, and Kyle Longinette.

## **Partnership Helps Citizens with Property Needs**

The St. Charles Neighborhood Preservation Partnership is a non-profit 501(c)(3) comprised of City employees. Its mission is to assist low-income citizens of St. Charles with property maintenance and accessible home modifications in an effort to keep our City a clean, safe and desirable place to live, work, and visit.

The Neighborhood Preservation Partnership obtains grants and enlists the help of volunteers to get the work done. The organization has completed many projects including wheelchair ramps, painting projects, and yard work.

The organization’s current officers include: Anita Telkamp, President; Bruce Evans, Vice President; Michele Mooney, Secretary; and Dorothy Holzwarth, Treasurer. Directors include Councilmember Mary West (Ward 4), Harry Fry, Ed Mitchell, and Mayor Sally Faith.

The Neighborhood Preservation Partnership is always on the lookout for residents in need of assistance as well as volunteer organizations with which to partner for projects. For more information, call Anita Telkamp at 636-949-3224.

It was all hands on deck when NPP members recently partnered with volunteers from Boeing to complete this wheelchair ramp project for a City resident.





## CVB STAFF RELOCATES DURING EXPANSION

Expansion is underway at the Greater Saint Charles Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) located at 230 S. Main. CVB staff, which includes 14 full- and part-time City employees, has outgrown the building at the corner of S. Main and First Capitol Dr.

“We definitely need more room,” said CVB Director, Joe Ward. “The building was built in 1986 and as we’ve grown, offices have been added and moved and the space has become dysfunctional. In some cases, we have three or four employees sharing one office, which isn’t comfortable or professional.”

Designs were closely coordinated through the Landmarks Board to ensure the new space is in keeping with the guidelines of the historic district. The addition is scheduled for completion by July 4. During construction, almost all CVB employees have relocated to temporary offices at 136 S. Main. However, with an average of 2,500 tourists stopping in each month, one employee along with the regularly scheduled volunteers remain at the CVB to greet visitors, give directions, and answer questions.

## CITY BUYS POLICE BODY CAMERAS

During its first meeting of 2015, the City Council voted to purchase 90 body cameras for City police officers. In addition to the cameras, the \$424,000 contract also includes five years of cloud video storage. Police Chief Randy McKinley said the controversy surrounding the shooting death of Michael Brown by a Ferguson police officer did not influence his decision, as this acquisition was already in process.

The cameras will be deployed sometime in late March or early April dependent upon management, supervisory and officer training and testing, McKinley said. “After the cameras are issued and officers are trained,” he added, “there will be a trial period during which we not only test the equipment but also review our policies for safety and effectiveness.”

McKinley indicated this addition represents a significant change and a very important next step for the City’s Police Department. “We are a leader in law enforcement for St. Charles County, and everyone is watching us as a test agency as it relates to this area of new technology,” he concluded.

## FARMER’S MARKET OPENS MAY 16

A summertime tradition returns on Saturday, May 16 when the Lion’s Club Farmer’s Market kicks off its 2015 season. Open Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. until Noon through October 31, the Farmer’s Market is held on the parking lot of the Foundry Art Centre at 520 N. Main Center, 63301. Here, you’ll find 15-20 vendors selling local produce, meat, dairy products, jams, jellies and more. Be sure to stop by!



## KATY DEPOT TO RECEIVE NEW DECK, ROOF

In the coming months, the Katy Depot in Frontier Park will receive much-needed improvements to keep the iconic facility vibrant for years to come. During the replacement of the patio deck and roof, park guests will not be able to access the building. Renovations are scheduled for completion by Memorial Day weekend.

## Anita Telkamp Named to NECAC Board

Anita Telkamp, Community Development Block Grant Administrator in the Department of Community Development and a St. Charles resident, has been



Anita Telkamp

appointed by County Executive Steve Ehlmann to serve as the Public Official representative of St. Charles County Government on

the Board of Directors of the North East Community Action Corporation (NECAC).

NECAC serves 12 counties in the northeast region of the state. The board consists of 40 members and meets six times a year. NECAC receives over \$24 million in grants, which are used to fund programs that benefit low-income families. The board’s main function is to insure that funds are appropriated fairly and used efficiently.

## Electronics Recycling Returns in April

Monthly electronics and computer recycling by WITS, Inc. will resume in April. This service takes place from noon to 6:00 p.m. on the third Friday of each month, through October, at the Family Arena’s north parking lot, 2002 Arena Parkway, 63303. WITS is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization established in St. Louis to reuse, repurpose and recycle computers and other electronics for the benefit of those in need and for our environment. For more info, visit [witsinc.org](http://witsinc.org).

## Riverfest Seeks Volunteers

The 2015 Fourth of July Celebration Committee is currently seeking individuals and civic organizations to volunteer at the City’s annual Riverfest festival July 2-4 in Frontier Park. Volunteers are needed to help with parking, trash, and more. If interested, please contact Karen Godfrey at 636-255-6109.

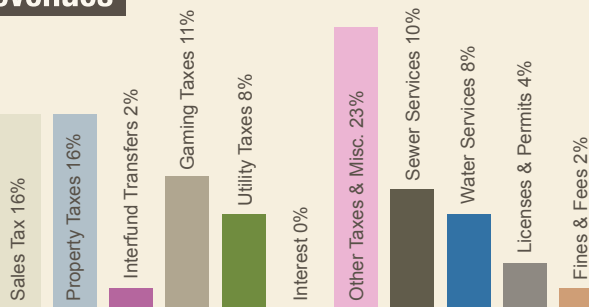
## 2015 BUDGETED REVENUES

Sales Tax.....	\$17,812,992
Property Taxes .....	17,485,707
Interfund Transfers .....	1,662,673
Gaming Taxes .....	12,625,000
Utility Taxes.....	8,893,889
Interest.....	192,200
Other Taxes & Misc. ....	25,870,138
Sewer Services .....	11,402,530
Water Services.....	8,848,746
Licenses & Permits.....	4,252,513
Fines & Fees.....	2,375,583
<b>GRAND TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$111,421,971</b>

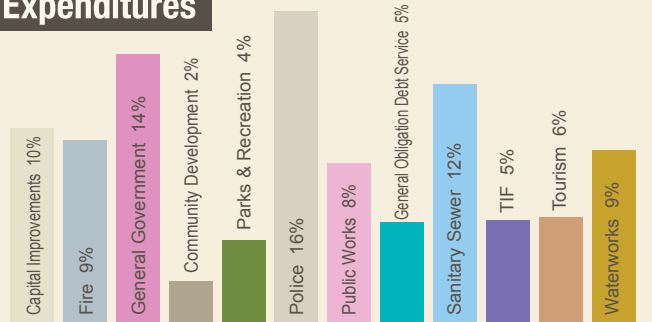
## How Does the City Collect Revenue?

- A property tax is levied to provide funding for the City's General Fund, Parks and Recreation and Debt Service. It is calculated based on the assessed valuation determined by the St. Charles County Assessor's Office.
- Gaming taxes are received from Ameristar and used to fund a variety of specific needs, which include public safety, economic redevelopment, street-related capital projects, city facilities and special initiatives, and storm water projects.
- A utility tax of 6.7% is levied on the gross receipts of natural gas, electric and phone (land-line and wireless) companies.
- A 1% sales tax is collected for General Fund operations and street maintenance and improvements. A sales tax of 0.5% is collected for Capital Improvements.
- Water and Sewer service fees are collected based on consumption. These fees are used only for funding ongoing operations directly related to these services.
- Licenses and Permits and Fines and Fees consist of various charges collected such as occupation licenses, building permits, police fines/fees, ambulance services, rental inspection fees and grants.

### Revenues



### Expenditures



## And Where is that Revenue Spent?

- Waterworks and Sanitary Sewer provide utilities to City residents and businesses.
- TIF (Tax Increment Financing) uses a portion of tax dollars generated within an area for improvement and/or development of the area.
- Police and Fire provide law enforcement and fire protection services – majority of funds are spent on personnel.
- Community Development and Tourism focus on promoting the standard of living and economic health of the City.
- Capital Improvements fund street repairs and maintenance, equipment and vehicles for the Fire and Police Departments, technology infrastructure and replacement, and various other capital items.
- Parks and Recreation funds the maintenance, operations and programs of their various facilities located throughout the City.
- General Obligation Debt Service is comprised of principal and interest payments, which are related to bonds issued by the City over the years to fund projects and facilities. (This does not include other types of debt issued to fund Water or Sewer projects/facilities. It is reflected under Waterworks or Sanitary Sewer.)
- General Government covers the administrative functions of day-to-day operations. The following departments are included: Office of the Mayor, City Council, Administration, Finance, Human Resources, Municipal Court, Legal, City Clerk, Economic Development, Media and Information Technology.
- Public Works contains the administrative expenditures of the Streets, Engineering and Facilities Maintenance divisions.

## 2015 BUDGETED EXPENDITURES

Capital Improvements.....	\$11,414,581
Fire .....	10,722,325
General Government.....	15,747,399
Community Development.....	2,451,977
Parks & Recreation .....	4,866,339
Police .....	18,278,825
Public Works.....	9,380,156
General Obligation Debt Service .....	5,875,565
Sanitary Sewer.....	13,981,754
TIF .....	6,032,977
Tourism .....	6,191,168
Waterworks .....	10,156,981
<b>GRAND TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$115,100,047*</b>

\* Proposed Expenditures slightly exceed Estimated Revenues as a result of the spending down of waterworks and sanitary sewer bond proceeds. These bond proceeds were received in prior years and have been earmarked until the projects have been completed.

# Property Taxes

## An Important Source of Revenue



St. Charles County is responsible for the assessment of your home and the collection of your taxes. Every two years properties are reassessed. The Assessed Value for your property is provided by the St. Charles County Assessor's Office. By state law, the Assessed Values are to be a specified percentage of the Fair Market Value based on the property type. Because St. Charles County Government assesses the property, any questions or more information should be addressed to the County Assessor, Scott Shipman. You can reach his office at 636-949-7431 or visit [assessor.sccmo.org](http://assessor.sccmo.org).

The City of St. Charles currently has the lowest full-service property tax rate in St. Charles County. We would like to point out the City provides a full-service Fire Department without any additional taxation. Tax Rates are set by each separate taxing district in the County; including the City of St. Charles. The Tax Rate Comparison throughout the County is as follows:

CITY (School Districts)	City Property Tax	Common Tax <sup>1</sup> (Includes Junior College Tax)	Fire District Tax <sup>2</sup>	Commercial Real Estate Tax	School District Tax	Total Property Tax
<b>St. Charles</b> (Orchard Farm / St. Charles / Francis Howell)	\$ .9312	\$ 1.1280	\$ .00	\$ .53	\$5.582 / \$4.8249 / \$5.193	\$8.17 / \$7.41 / \$7.78
<b>St. Peters</b> (Ft. Zumwalt / Francis Howell)	\$ .77	\$ 1.1280	\$ .8964	\$ .53	\$4.8438 / \$5.193	\$8.17 / \$8.52
<b>O'Fallon</b> (Ft. Zumwalt / Francis Howell)	\$ .5512	\$ 1.1280	\$ .7004	\$ .53	\$4.83438 / \$5.1930	\$7.75 / \$8.10
<b>Lake St. Louis</b> (Wentzville)	\$ 1.0651	\$ 1.1280	\$ .5653	\$ .53	\$4.9891	\$8.28
<b>Wentzville</b> (Wentzville)	\$ .7902	\$ 1.1280	\$ .5080	\$ .53	\$4.9891	\$7.95

<sup>1</sup> Includes Junior College Tax.

<sup>2</sup> St. Charles provides a full-service fire department without additional taxation. For example, St. Charles' fire service is included in \$.9312 / \$100 assessed valuation (AV); whereas, Lake St. Louis city taxes and fire district have a tax burden of \$1.630 / \$100 AV, and Wentzville is \$1.298 / \$100 AV.

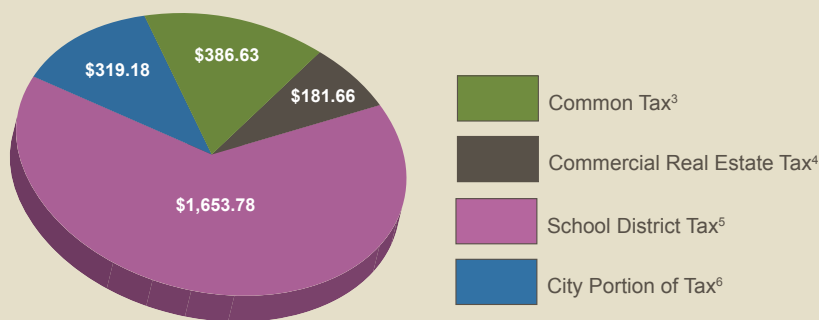
**According to the St. Charles County Assessor, three factors go into determining your tax bill:**

- 1 Average Price of Home Sale**
- 2 The Assessed Value**
- 3 The Tax Rate set by City Council**

## How Property Taxes are Distributed

**Total Tax Bill: \$2,541.25**

Based on Average Home Price<sup>1</sup> of \$180,400 and Assessed Valuation<sup>2</sup> of \$34,276



<sup>1</sup> Based on 2010 Census.

<sup>2</sup> Residential Property is assessed at 19% market value.

<sup>3</sup> Common Tax Includes State \$.0300, County \$.0016, Road & Bridge \$.2025, Library \$.2270, Ambulance \$.2628, Dev. Disability \$.1455, Dispatch & Alarm \$.0390, Junior College Tax \$.2196. TOTAL TAX \$1.1280.

<sup>4</sup> Commercial Real Estate Tax is county-wide real estate surtax applied to commercial and industrial real estate in lieu of inventory tax. Commercial and Industrial real estate property are assessed at 32% of market value, and personal property is assessed at 33.3% of market value.

<sup>5</sup> This is based upon the City of St. Charles School District rate. The City of St. Charles has three (3) school districts with all or portions within the city limits.

<sup>6</sup> St. Charles' fire service is included in \$.9312 / \$100 assessed valuation.



# Sales Tax

## How Much Stays Here and How is it Used?

One of the City's main sources of revenue is derived from sales tax collected on goods purchased within the City of St. Charles. For every dollar spent within City limits, we receive 1.5% or \$0.015. The remaining revenue collected from the tax rate increments go to the various other taxing entities. Sales tax rates can change and vary from city-to-city.

Our local sales tax rate breakdown is as follows:

A BREAKDOWN OF OUR LOCAL SALES TAX RATE	
City Tax – General Revenue	0.750%
+ City Tax – Streets Fund	0.250%
+ City Tax – Capital Improvements	0.500%
+ St. Charles County Sales Tax	1.725%
+ State Tax	4.225%
= TOTAL LOCAL SALES TAX	7.450%

It is important to note our 1% sales tax for 2014 was allocated to the General Fund (75%) and the Street Maintenance and Improvement Fund (25%).

We would also like to point out:

- All financial resources not restricted to specific purpose or otherwise required to be used in another fund are accounted for in the General Fund. The following departments' budgeted expenses are reflected in the General Fund: Police, Fire, Municipal Court, Community Development/Code Enforcement, Economic Development, Mayor's office, Council, Administration, Human Resources, City Clerk, Legal, Finance, Information Technology, Building Maintenance and Cemetery Operations.
- The Street Maintenance and Improvement Fund is used to account for a portion of general sales tax, gasoline tax revenue, and County Road and Bridge tax. These funds are restricted to maintenance and improvements of City roads and bridges.
- The capital improvements sales tax of 0.5% (noted in the chart above) is used as outlined on Page 7 (to fund street repairs and maintenance, equipment and vehicles for the Fire and Police Departments, technology infrastructure and replacement, and various other capital items).
- The City of St. Charles also collects a 1% tourism license tax. Restaurants, hotels, and motel operators in the City of St. Charles are subject to a City tourism license tax of 1% of gross receipts. This tax is a business license tax - not a sales tax. These funds are utilized to promote and expand tourism, conventions, and other related activities in the City.

If you have any questions about the City's sales tax rate, please feel free to call the Director of Administration's Office at 636-949-3262.



# I Have A Dream...

## Students Honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Annual Art Competition

The St. Charles Human Relations Commission (HRC) in conjunction with the Foundry Art Centre once again teamed up to organize the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Dream Project." According to Chuck Lovelace, GIS Coordinator and the City's staff liaison for the Commission, schools participating in the art contest included Lincoln Elementary and Blackhurst Elementary schools in St. Charles.

"We would like to congratulate this year's participants for their unique efforts," said Lovelace, "as we received many fine entries of students' artistic depictions of Dr. King's 'I Have a Dream' speech. Hopefully the project was as enjoyable and rewarding for the students, parents and teachers as it has been for all of us involved."

The winners of the 2015 "Dream Project" competition are:

Place	Name	Grade	School	Project Title
1st	Andrew Lister	3rd	Lincoln	"Peace and Love is the Answer"
2nd	Hailey Routt	6th	Lincoln	"Dream"
3rd	Patrick Gould	2nd	Blackhurst	"Climb the Mountains of Peace"

Contest entries were also received from: Malian Jones (Kindergarten, Blackhurst); Christopher Kimsey (3rd grade, Blackhurst); and Maria Lopes (4th grade, Blackhurst).

"Congratulations to all our participants," added Melissa Whitwam, Exhibitions Manager for the Foundry Art Centre. "We hope the St. Charles community had an opportunity to stop by City Hall last month to view this collective body of work and celebrate these young, talented artists and the powerful messages conveyed through their creative expression."



The Human Relations Commission (HRC) honored students for their Dream Project submissions at the January 20 City Council meeting. Presenting awards on the Commission's behalf was Councilmember Bridget Ohmes, Ward 10. In addition, Judge Daniel Pelikan was honored as the HRC's Person of the Year. Pictured above (l to r) are: Judge Pelikan, Hailey Routt, Andrew Lister, Patrick Gould, and Councilmember Ohmes.

## CITY COMMISSION RECEIVES HONORS

The City's Human Relations Commission (HRC) was recently selected as Missouri's 2014 Local Human Rights Commission of the Year. The award was given December 5 at the 3rd Annual Human Rights Conference, hosted by the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, in Jefferson City.

The HRC was formed in 2008 and was the first organization of its type in the County. Its purpose is to:

- Promote respect, harmony, and understanding.
- Endeavor to eliminate prejudice among citizens, groups, agencies, and departments.
- Promote mutual understanding and respect among all social, racial, religious, cultural, and ethnic groups.

Current Commission members include Pamela Coaxum, Guadalupe Plaza, Kerrie Mondy, Wanda Burton, Joe Briscoe, Leo Price, Sr., Dr. Kim Harris, Carole Bannes, Tina Meier, David Rosenwasser, Police Chief Randy McKinley, Mayor Sally Faith, Councilmember Bridget Ohmes, Councilmember Tom Besselman, and Staff Liaison Chuck Lovelace.



At the ceremony were (l to r) Jenifer Placzek, State of Missouri Human Relations Commissioner; HRC Staff Liaison Chuck Lovelace; HRC Chairperson Pamela Coaxum; HRC Commissioner Carole Bannes; and Executive Director of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights Alisa Warren, Ph.D.



# LET'S {GO} OUTSIDE!

## EVENTS

### **St. Patty's Hunt for Gold** (ages 21 and over)

A pot of gold has been spilled and gold coins are waiting to be found! Each coin corresponds to a prize. Will you win a small treasure or the big \$100 Visa® Gift Card grand prize? Come play and see! Fee includes two servings of draft beer. Please bring your own bucket and flashlight. Pre-registration is required.

DATE: Friday, March 13

TIME: 7:00P

FEE: \$15 per person

LOCATION: Wapelhorst Park

### **Adult Easter Egg Hunt** (ages 21 and over)

Gather your friends for some "big kid" fun at our Adult Easter Egg Hunt. There will be several valuable prizes hidden in the Easter eggs, and it is up to you to find them! Be part of this exciting evening. Fee includes two servings of draft beer. Please bring your own bucket and flashlight. Pre-registration is required.

DATE: Friday, April 3

TIME: 7:00P

FEE: \$15 per person

LOCATION: Blanchette Park

### **2015 Food Truck Events**

Bring your own lawnchairs and blankets and join us at our 2015 Food Truck Events! Enjoy live entertainment as you indulge in a variety of delicious foods from area food truck vendors. You're guaranteed to find a little something for everyone! Invite your friends and family for a night of food, fun and the great outdoors. Please note that some food trucks may only accept cash.

TIME: 5:00P-8:00P

DATES & LOCATIONS:

April 21 .....at Mueller Soccer Complex

June 16 .....at Frontier Park

August 18 .....at Frontier Park

October 20 .....at Frontier Park

## LESSONS

### **Pickleball (4-week program)**

Often described as a mix between tennis, badminton and pingpong, pickleball is played on a court with a hard paddle and a polymer ball. Simple rules make this a fun and easy-to-learn sport. Register today and join the Pickleball craze! Each week begins with lessons and ends in game play. Paddles will be provided.

LOCATION: Wapelhorst Park,  
Tennis Courts 1 & 2

DATE/TIME: Tuesdays, 9:00A-11:00A

PROGRAMS BEGIN: April 21 & May 19

FEE: \$40 per person

### **Adult Swing Dance (4-week program)**

This easy social swing dance class will teach you all the fundamentals including basic step, closed and open position, glide away, and more. Designed for couples and singles, no prior dance experience is required. Come and have fun as you learn a style of dance that's been around for generations!

LOCATION: Blanchette Park,  
Memorial Hall Auditorium

DATE/TIME: Sundays, 1:00P-2:00P

PROGRAM BEGINS: April 12

FEE: \$50 per couple / \$25 per single

### **Motorcycle Rider Education** (2-day course)

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) is the internationally recognized developer of the comprehensive, research-based, Rider Education and Training System (RETS). MSF-RETS curriculum promotes life-long learning for motorcyclists and continuous professional development for certified rider coaches and other trainers. Bikes are provided, and age restrictions apply.

DATES: Two-day courses  
available (weekends or weekdays)

TIME: 8:00A-5:00P

FEE: \$240 per student

LOCATION: 2300 N. Main, 63301

## DAY CAMP

### **Summer Fun Day Camp (ages 6-14)**

Our Summer Fun Day Camp program will provide a fun and entertaining environment for your child throughout the work-week. Campers will make new friends while participating in fun activities such as games, cooking, swimming, crafts, field trips and more. Your child will be supervised at all times at a counselor-to-camper ratio of 1:10 (1:5 for field trips and swimming). Registration forms are available online or from the Parks office, which is located inside Blanchette Park at 1900 Randolph St.

HELD AT: Blanchette Park (6/1-7/31) and  
Wapelhorst Park (6/1-8/7)

HOURS: 9:00A-3:00P

RESIDENT FEE: \$90 per week\*

NON-RESIDENT FEE: \$100 per week\*

*\*Week 5 rate is \$80 for all. No camp on July 3.*

SUNRISE CAMP: 6:30A-9:00A  
\$25 per week\*\*

SUNSET CAMP: 3:00P-6:00P  
\$25 per week\*\*

SUNRISE & SUNSET: \$40 per week\*\*

*\*\*Family discounts available*



REGISTER ONLINE OR CONNECT WITH US AT:



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### APRIL

- 19 .....Lindenwood Cycling Criterium | Historic Downtown North Main | [www.mwccc.org](http://www.mwccc.org)
- 21 .....Food Truck Event | Sports Complex | 2801 Mueller Rd. | 5-8pm | Live music and foods | [www.stcharlesparcs.com](http://www.stcharlesparcs.com)
- 23-May 3 .....Augusta's Plein Air Art Festival | Watch the colors burst forth in nature and on canvas | [www.augustapleinair.com](http://www.augustapleinair.com)
- 25 .....Twilight Puzzle Run | Frontier Park | 6:30pm
- 26 .....Sunday Funday | 100-200 blocks of N. Main | Noon-6pm | Food, drink, music and fun

### MAY

- Saturdays .....(beginning May 16) St. Charles Lion's Club Farmer's Market | 7am-Noon | Foundry Art Centre Lot
- 2 .....RUSH 5K: Run Uniting Super Heroes | Frontier Park | [www.thesparrowsneststl.org](http://www.thesparrowsneststl.org)
- 9 .....Karen 4 A Kause | Frontier Park | 5K Run/1-Mile Walk & Children's Dash Against Cancer | [www.karensfoundation.org](http://www.karensfoundation.org)
- 16-17 .....Lewis & Clark Heritage Days | Frontier Park | Reenactment 1804 Encampment | [www.lewisandclarkheritagedays.com](http://www.lewisandclarkheritagedays.com)
- 16-June 14 .....(Saturdays, Sundays & Memorial Day) St. Louis Renaissance Faire | Rotary Park | Wentzville | [www.stlrenfest.com](http://www.stlrenfest.com)
- 17 .....Sunday Funday | 100-200 blocks of N. Main | Noon-6pm | Food, drink, music and fun
- 20 .....Music on Main | 100-200 blocks of N. Main | 5-7:30pm | Live music by Butch Wax & the Hollywoods
- 22-24 .....Missouri River Irish Fest | Frontier Park | [www.moriveririshfest.com](http://www.moriveririshfest.com)
- 22 .....Ribfest | New Town | Music, food, beverages, children's area and more | [www.ntga.net](http://www.ntga.net)
- 25 .....Cobblestone Nationals Car Show | Fast Lane Classic Cars | [www.fastlanecars.com](http://www.fastlanecars.com)
- 25 .....Memorial Day Observance | Veterans Memorial at Bishops Landing | 1:00pm
- 25 .....Gypsy Caravan | Family Arena | 7am-5pm | [www.stlsymphony.org/gypsyncaravan](http://www.stlsymphony.org/gypsyncaravan)

### JUNE

- Thursdays .....St. Charles Municipal Band Concerts | Frontier Park | 8pm | [www.stcharlesband.com](http://www.stcharlesband.com)
- Saturdays .....St. Charles Lion's Club Farmer's Market | 7am-Noon | Foundry Art Centre Lot
- 7 .....Sunday Funday | 100-200 blocks of N. Main | Noon-6pm | Food, drink, music and fun
- 14 .....St. Charles Community Big (Jazz) Band Concert | Frontier Park | 7:30pm | [www.stcharlesband.com](http://www.stcharlesband.com)
- 16 .....Food Trucks in Frontier | 5-8pm | Live music and foods | [www.stcharlesparcs.com](http://www.stcharlesparcs.com)
- 17 .....Music on Main | 100-200 blocks of N. Main | 5-7:30pm | Live music by The Rogers & Nienhaus Band
- 18 .....BCI's Wing Ding | Family Arena lot | Annual charity chicken wing competition, drinks and music | 5-9pm | Tickets \$35-\$50 | [www.boonecenter.com](http://www.boonecenter.com)
- 22-26 .....Katy Trail Bike Ride (ends in St. Charles) | [www.mostateparcs.com/2015-katy-trail-ride](http://www.mostateparcs.com/2015-katy-trail-ride) | Registration opens March 1

### JULY

- Thursdays .....St. Charles Municipal Band Concerts | Frontier Park | 8pm | [www.stcharlesband.com](http://www.stcharlesband.com)
- Saturdays .....St. Charles Lion's Club Farmer's Market | 7am-Noon | Foundry Art Centre Lot
- 2-4 .....Riverfest 2015 | Frontier Park | Independence Day celebration (with two nights of fireworks), music, food, drink and parade

For more information on these and other events, visit us online or follow our social media feeds. As a reminder, domesticated animals are prohibited in Frontier Park during special events. Events listed are subject to change.



[HistoricStCharles.com](http://HistoricStCharles.com)



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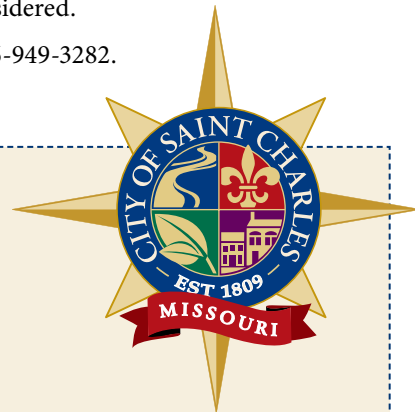


## Non-Profits Invited To Apply for Grants

The City Council is taking applications for its 2015 grant program through March 31. The program is for not-for-profit arts, civic, charitable and neighborhood groups and is designed to enhance the quality of life throughout the St. Charles community and to promote the public health, safety, general welfare, prosperity and contentment of City residents.

The application is available online at [stcharlescitemo.gov](http://stcharlescitemo.gov) and at the City Clerk's office located on the 4th floor of City Hall, 200 N. Second Street, 63301. Applications must be submitted by March 28 in order to be considered.

Questions? Contact the City Clerk's office at 636-949-3282.



### SENIOR CITIZEN LOW-INCOME UTILITY TAX REFUND PROGRAM

## APPLICATION FORM

Applications will be accepted through July 1, 2015, for a refund of City utility taxes paid in 2014 for Electric, Natural Gas, and AT&T (land-line only) utilities.

**PLEASE CALL :: FOR AN ITEMIZED SHEET FROM AMEREN UE (800-552-7583) AND LACLEDE GAS (314-621-6960).**

- **APPLICANT MUST** be at least 62 years of age OR 60 years of age and receiving total disability.
- **APPLICANT MUST** provide proof of age (such as a driver's license).
- **APPLICANT MUST** be living on income substantially equal to Social Security and/or pension.
- **APPLICANT MUST** have a total household income less than \$29,075 for one (1) person or \$33,225 for two (2) persons.
- **APPLICANT MUST** own or lease residential property located within St. Charles city limits and must occupy the same property as his or her customary place of residence.
- **APPLICANT MUST** provide receipts of the paid utility bills and proof of any and all household income.

**PLEASE NOTE ::** Upon affirmative recommendation of the Mayor, the applicant may be granted a refund of the St. Charles taxes he or she paid to the utilities during the previous calendar year. Refunds granted by the Mayor may be revoked upon a finding that such income or family status no longer exists.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ St. Charles, MO ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby request that I be refunded the utility taxes paid for the calendar year of: **2014**

**Please TOTAL ALL household income from Social Security AND any other source(s): \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANTS MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF ALL INCOME AND PROOF OF AGE.**

**RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM, ALONG WITH ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION, TO:**

St. Charles City Hall, 200 N. Second St., St. Charles, MO 63301  
(hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

**QUESTIONS?** Email [michele.mooney@stcharlescitemo.gov](mailto:michele.mooney@stcharlescitemo.gov)

## Big Projects, Big News

As the first quarter of 2015 comes to a close, we have many new developments to highlight in the City of St. Charles. Not the least of which is the Fifth Street Gateway project, which will no doubt serve as a legacy in our community for many years to come. I hope you'll take the time to review the article on Page 2, outlining next steps on this 16-month enhancement project already underway at the City's front door entrance from Interstate 70.

Another project that is coming along quite nicely on the north side of town is our new Public Works facility to be located at 2871 Elmpoint Industrial Drive across the street from the Mueller Road soccer park and adjacent to the Coca Cola plant. Once again, we appreciate local voter support as funds for this project were approved in 2012. This project is about 70% complete, and our Streets Division will be the first to move into the new facility this summer (for more information, see Page 3).

Starting on Page 7 of this issue of *City News*, you'll also find our Annual Financial Report outlining the City's 2015 budget and a complete overview of projected revenues and expenditures. In this section, you'll also find a recap of property taxes, including how they're distributed in St. Charles, along with a review of sales tax collected on goods purchased within the City. I hope you find this financial overview helpful.

Last month, residents citywide began receiving inserts in water bills providing a voluntary donation opportunity to support the Meals on Wheels program in St. Charles (see article on Page 5). Thank you in advance for your consideration of this opportunity to ensure homebound senior citizens in St. Charles continue to receive hot meals Monday through Friday on a weekly basis. The money contributed will support the Meals on Wheels home-delivery program as provided through the St. Charles Senior Center with the help of volunteers.

You'll also be hearing more in the coming months regarding the five-year review of our City's Strategic Plan. Originally developed in 2009, we're currently engaging interested stakeholders to serve on a plan review committee. This process will ensure the strategic plan is still on track to accomplish these previously established goals and objectives.

As shown in the picture below and the article on Page 16, we sure are enjoying students from St. Charles High School, who are interning at City Hall through the end of



the spring semester learning the ropes of what it's like to be employed in the field of public service. Currently we have seven students working in Public Works, Community Development and the City Clerk's office. What a wonderful partnership!

Finally, here's something you're going to hear more about and it's really big news! The Discovery Expedition of St. Charles (DESC) recently announced the honor of showcasing their fleet of replica boats in the upcoming HBO miniseries *Lewis and Clark* to be filmed starting this summer. See Page 16 for photos and further details regarding this exciting opportunity for St. Charles and our DESC partners.

Best wishes, and here's to warmer weather...soon!

Sincerely,

Sally A. Faith  
Mayor

P.S. Be sure to sign up for the *City eNews*. If you're not currently on our distribution list, please send an email to [enews@stcharlescitemo.gov](mailto:enews@stcharlescitemo.gov) to begin receiving this weekly, electronic news update every Friday afternoon. And, for your easy reference, you can always view current and past issues of *City News* online at [stcharlescitemo.gov](http://stcharlescitemo.gov).



*Students working at City Hall had an opportunity to meet Mayor Faith and members of the City's leadership team. Pictured in the Council Chambers are (l to r): Alexis Rebeck, Brittany Husch, Alex Sweda, Megan Demma, Michael Perry, and Dakota Clines (not pictured, Richard Reeves).*





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### WARD 1

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### WARD 7

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### WARD 10

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StCharlesCityMo.gov



Discover St. Charles



StCharlesCity



City of St. Charles, MO

## VOCATIONAL STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT CITY JOB OPPORTUNITIES

In late January, seven students from the Vocational Program at St. Charles High School began a semester-long adventure at City Hall learning about public service job opportunities.

“When Peggy Shelton, Transition Program Coordinator, Ruth Guffey, Partners in Education Facilitator, and Councilmember Jerry Reese approached the City with this internship idea, we knew we wanted to be part of this outreach program,” said Don Rothermich, Community Relations Liaison. “This is a terrific opportunity to help students in our community gain valuable on-the-job training.”

The students are working in the Public Works and Community Development departments and in the City Clerk’s office weekdays from 8 to 10 a.m. through the end of May. “Without a doubt,” Rothermich observed, “the future looks bright!”



Mayor Sally Faith, Councilmember Jerry Reese, Ward 6, Director of Administration Michael Spurgeon and members of the City’s leadership team welcomed administrators and students from the St. Charles School District. Pictured in Council Chambers (l to r) are: Nigel Kinworthy, Julie McClard, Peggy Shelton, Michael Spurgeon, Megan Demma, Michael Perry, Alexis Rebeck, Mayor Faith, Brittany Husch, Alex Sweda, Darcell Fleeman, Dakota Clines, Councilmember Reese, Laura Whitehead and Bruce Evans (not pictured, Richard Reeves and Jerry Hurlbert).



Photos by Betty Kluesner, Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, MO

## LOCAL BOATS TO BE FEATURED IN HBO MINISERIES

The Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, MO recently announced the non-profit organization’s fleet of boats will be featured in the upcoming HBO miniseries *Lewis and Clark*.

The six-hour miniseries will follow the journey of the Corps of Discovery and its Captains, Lewis and Clark, who traverse uncharted territory on their mission to deliver President Thomas Jefferson’s message of sovereignty, as they search for his fabled all-water route to the Pacific.

Executive producers on the miniseries are Tom Hanks, Gary Goetzman, Edward Norton, Brad Pitt, Dede Gardner, Tim Kelly and Adam Leipzig. Casey Affleck will portray Meriwether Lewis and Belgian actor Matthias Schoenaerts will portray William Clark. Production, based on the book *Undaunted Courage*, by Stephen E. Ambrose, will begin this summer.